Neighborhood Watch Tracking Tool

Objective:
To help residents create a local Neighborhood Watch, sometimes called "block watch," program

Intended Use:
This tool is designed to help community leaders establish a successful Neighborhood Watch program by comparing their progress to established milestones.

Audience:
• Community Outreach Workers or others who are assisting local residents establish a Neighborhood Watch program

Outcome:
• An active and successful Neighborhood Watch program is established in the community

Context:
Neighborhoods today, independent of the socioeconomic status of the residents, have high levels of social isolation. Neighborhoods with the least social connectedness have higher risks for crime and violence. The Neighborhood Watch structure provides opportunities for residents to get to know each other. They also receive training on how to create an environment that resists criminal activity. The dual benefits of increasing neighborhood cohesion and crime prevention make this process especially useful to residents.

Individuals who work to support neighborhoods understand that the greater the level of resident isolation, the greater the level of neighborhood disorganization. When neighborhoods experience problems including blight, crime and violence, residents look to local authorities for relief. Too often, their calls for assistance are not met satisfactorily.

The Neighborhood Watch process knits residents into a cohesive whole, with more power to positively impact their neighborhood than when they act alone. In addition, Neighborhood Watch is usually implemented in collaboration with local law enforcement. When residents better understand the roles and functions of law enforcement, previous animosities can be overcome.

The Neighborhood Watch process, while initially focused on reducing crime and violence, trains residents to address other problems. In this way, Neighborhood Watch can function as a community action group addressing a wide variety of issues that affect children and families.

There are standard guidelines that national law enforcement groups have developed to establish consistency in the methods for creating and running a Neighborhood Watch. The tracking tool lists those elements and gives a means to measure progress toward achieving them.

Notes

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

Elements of an Effective Neighborhood Watch Program	In Very Good Shape (next steps?)	Satisfactory Progress (next steps?)	Needs Much More Attention (next steps?)	Have Not Started (next steps?)
Is the effort to start a Neighborhood Watch in collaboration with local law enforcement?				
Have residents expressed concerns about crime and safety in their neighborhood and indicated interest in forming a neighborhood watch program?				
Has a local resident been identified as a temporary lead in the process?				
Has the resident leader submitted an application to the police for support to create a new neighborhood watch program?				
Has the resident leader identified at least five additional people who would be willing to attend a neighborhood watch introductory meeting?				
Has a first meeting been scheduled with residents and police?				
Was there good turnout at the first meeting?				
If residents decided to proceed with forming a watch program was a neighborhood watch captain identified?				
Were additional training meetings scheduled with police?				

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At subsequent neighborhood watch meetings, did attendance grow?				
Did the residents assume control of running the subsequent meetings?				
Are the residents keeping records of problem activity and turning in logs to police?				
Has a neighborhood watch map been created and distributed to neighbors?				
Is the group meeting at least monthly?				
Do problems appear to be improving?				